

We claim:

1. A mixture adapted for placement within a container, said mixture comprising:

particles selected from the group consisting of metal oxide particles, metal
hydroxide particles, and mixtures thereof,
said particles having a surface area of at least about 70 m²/g; and
a propellant.

2. The mixture of claim 1, said metal oxides being selected from the group
consisting of MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, ZnO, Al₂O₃, ZrO₂, FeO, V₂O₃, V₂O₅,
Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, and Ag₂O and mixtures thereof.

3. The mixture of claim 2, said metal oxide comprising MgO.

4. The mixture of claim 1, said mixture including a suspension agent for said
particles.

5. The mixture of claim 4, said suspension agent selected from the group
consisting of pentane and water.

6. The mixture of claim 1, said particles comprising metal oxide composites
made up of a first metal oxide at least partially coated with a second, different metal oxide.

7. The mixture of claim 1, said particles being present as a self-sustaining
body formed of a plurality of agglomerated particles.

8. The mixture of claim 1, said propellant being nitrogen gas.

9. A mixture adapted for placement within a container, said mixture consisting
essentially of particles selected from the group consisting of metal oxide and metal

hydroxide particles and mixtures thereof, a suspension agent for said particles, and a propellant.

10. The mixture of claim 9, said metal oxide and metal hydroxide parties each
5 respectively selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, transition metal, and lanthanide oxides and hydroxides and mixtures thereof.

11. The mixture of claim 10, said metal oxides being selected from the group
10 consisting of MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, ZnO, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, ZrO₂, FeO, V₂O₃, V₂O₅, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, SiO₂, and Ag₂O and mixtures thereof.

12. The mixture of claim 11, said metal oxide being MgO.

13. The mixture of claim 9, said suspension agent selected from the group
15 consisting of pentane and water.

14. A non-aqueous mixture adapted for placement within a container, said
mixture comprising particles selected from the group consisting of metal oxide and metal
hydroxide particles and mixtures thereof, said particles having an average crystallite size
20 of up to about 20 nm, and a propellant.

15. The mixture of claim 14, said metal oxide and metal hydroxide parties each
respectively selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal,
transition metal, and lanthanide oxides and hydroxides, and mixtures thereof.

16. The mixture of claim 15, said metal oxides being selected from the group
consisting of MgO, CeO₂, AgO, SrO, BaO, CaO, ZnO, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, ZrO₂, FeO, V₂O₃,
V₂O₅, Mn₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, NiO, CuO, SiO₂, and Ag₂O and mixtures thereof.

17. The mixture of claim 16, said metal oxide being MgO.

18. The mixture of claim 14, said mixture including a suspension agent for said particles.

5 19. The mixture of claim 18, said suspension agent selected from the group consisting of pentane and water.

10 20. A method of at least partially decontaminating an area subjected to an undesirable chemical or biological agent, comprising the step of spraying the mixture of claim 1 adjacent said area.

21. The method of claim 20, said area comprising a surface.

15 22. The method of claim 21, said surface comprising a textured surface of a member selected from the group consisting of wallboard, metal panel, ceiling tile, office panel, cement, and carpet.

20 23. The method of claim 20, said undesirable chemical or biological agent being an airborne agent.

24. A method of at least partially decontaminating an area subjected to an undesirable chemical or biological agent, comprising the step of spraying the mixture of claim 9 adjacent said area.

25 25. A method of at least partially decontaminating an area subjected to an undesirable chemical or biological agent, comprising the step of spraying the mixture of claim 14 adjacent said area.